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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS

Bahamas*, Bangladesh, Bolivia*, Burkina Faso*, Burundi*,
Canada, Chile, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Democratic
Republic of the Congo*, El Salvador, Fiji*, Guyana, India,
Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Japan, Kazakhstan*, Kenya*,
Lesotho, Malawi*, Malaysia*, Mauritius, Namibia*, Nepal*,
New Zealand, Panama*, Peru*, Philippines*, Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines*, Senegal*, Sri Lanka, Sudan*, Syrian
Arab Republic*, Thailand*, Tunisia and United Republic of
Tanzania*: draft resolution

International Year of Microcredit 2005

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

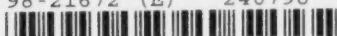
"International Year of Microcredit 2005

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997 entitled 'Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty',

"Recognizing that microcredit programmes have successfully contributed to lifting people out of poverty in many countries around the world,

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.



"Bearing in mind that microcredit programmes have especially benefited women and have resulted in the achievement of their empowerment,

"Recognizing that microcredit programmes, in addition to their role in the eradication of poverty, have also been a contributing factor to the social and human development process,

"Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments such as credit, savings and related business services in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

"Noting the support to microcredit in the outcomes of different summit and high-level meetings, including the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (New Delhi, 7 and 8 April 1997), the Ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Male, 12-14 May 1997), the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session (Harare, 2-4 June 1997), the Group of Seven statement on economic and financial issues (Denver, United States of America, 21 June 1997), the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council (Geneva, 30 June-25 July 1997), the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (Edinburgh, 24-27 October 1997) and the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (Cartagena, 18-20 May 1998),

"Noting also that the year 2005 is the final year of the campaign of the Microcredit Summit (Washington, D.C., 2-4 February 1997), which, through its Declaration and Programme of Action,¹ endorsed a global campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services, by that year,

"Noting further that the international community is observing the period 1997-2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

"1. Proclaims the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit;

"2. Requests that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit programmes throughout the world;

"3. Invites Governments, the United Nations system, all concerned non-governmental organizations, other actors of civil society, the private sector and the media to highlight and give enhanced recognition to the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, its contribution to social development and its positive impact on the lives of people living in poverty;

"4. Invites all involved in the eradication of poverty to consider taking additional steps, including strengthening of existing and emerging

¹ A/52/113, annex I.

microcredit institutions and their capacities, so that credit and related services for self-employment and income-generating activities may be made available to increasing number of people living in poverty and to further develop where appropriate, other microfinance instruments;

"5. Invites the Secretary-General to present to it at its fifty-eighth session a report containing a draft programme of action for the effective observance of the Year, in consultation with all relevant actors including United Nations bodies, under an item entitled 'First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty' to be included in the provisional agenda of that session."
